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THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

Friday, November 12, 1915.

Lincoln—Sixty Years After

In 1856, Abraham Lincoln, in a speech delivered at Chicago, said: "All of us who did not vote for Mr. Buchanan, taken together, are a majority of 400,000. But in the late contest we were divided between Fremont and Fillmore. Can we not come together for the future? Let every one who really believes and is resolved that free society is not and shall not be a failure, and who conscientiously declare that in the last contest he has done only what he thought best—let every such one have charity to believe that every other one can say as much. Thus let bygones be bygones; let past differences be nothing but; and with steady eye on the real issue let us inaugurate the good old 'central idea' of the republic. We can do it."

In 1916, sixty years after these words were spoken, they should come to the men of Lincoln's political faith and of Lincoln's party as both an admonition and in appeal.

All of us who did not vote for Mr. Wilson are a majority of nearly a half millions. Those of us who voted as republicans and progressives are a majority of nearly a million and a half. If we alone will take Lincoln's counsel we shall "inaugurate the good old central idea of the Republic." Let us do as Lincoln would have us do.

Gloom at the White House

There is genuine gloom at the white house which, for the time being at least, even the festivity attending the president's approaching marriage cannot dispel. It has been realized by the president and his close advisers that he would experience great difficulty in controlling congress during the coming session, but it was believed that substantial democratic victories in last week's elections would materially strengthen his hands and that his friends would be able to urge upon recalcitrant congressmen that, as Mr. Wilson was stronger than his party, they could be pardoning their own selfish welfare by opposing him, any legislation he might propose. Now, however, this is rapidly changed and some new argument must be found if the ruling spirit of insurrection in the democratic ranks in congress is to be crushed. Another blow to the president and to his chief adviser, Mr. McAdoo, is the defeat of representative John J. Fitzgerald, who ran for the New York supreme

court. Mr. Fitzgerald, who is one of the frankest and ablest democrats in the house, as well as chairman of the appropriations committee, has always been a thorn in the flesh to Mr. Wilson. Mr. Fitzgerald has not hesitated to castigate the present administration unmercifully for its extravagance in doling out the public funds, and he has been severe in his criticism of Mr. McAdoo's mismanagement of the treasury department. For these reasons his nomination for judicial position was hailed with joy by the president and Mr. McAdoo and they did all in their power to promote his election, but without success.

Washington Letter

It is altogether probable that democratic leaders in the coming session of congress will call some of the administrative department heads to account for the manner in which government appropriations have been expended. This administration has thrown itself open to just criticism in so many instances and in such important particulars that democratic congressmen will find embarrassment in defending the party record in their 1916 campaigns, and they do not relish the predicament in which they unwillingly placed.

It is not merely extravagance that has put the democratic party in bad standing before the country. If the money were merely wasted, doing nobody harm, there would be sufficient grounds for criticism, but when the administration uses the money and offices of the American people against the interests of our own countrymen, the situation is one that invites a degree of censure and rebuke that render the word "criticism" inadequate.

The recent example of the department of commerce issuing a statement to the press boasting that it had aided Swiss manufacturers in securing orders for toys in America is a case in point. While American toy manufacturers are employing salesmen to place their goods in their own home market, the department lent the aid of government employees to the marketing of Swiss goods in this country in competition with the American product. As an illustration of the democratic idea of "America First," this is a shining example that has probably never been surpassed. The nearest approach to it was the removal of the sugar duty at the request of men who openly admitted that they expected such action to drive American producers out business.

With an administration preaching "America First" and practicing "Switzerland First," the democratic spell-binder of 1916 is certain to have a sorry time. He will have an embarrassing time of it when some native born American citizen

stand up in the audience and asks the candidate to explain this feature of democratic administration—a policy maintained at a time when the department of labor is sending out bulletins showing a very large number of unemployed in practically every city in the United States.

In these days of organization for mutual cooperation, every city has its chamber of commerce or board of trade for the purpose of promoting local commercial interests, to encourage the development of local industries and invites new enterprises to begin operations in the local field. All these organizations urge a policy expressed by the phrase, "Patronize Home Industries." Every local merchant, banker, and mechanic preaches the doctrine. Every newspaper gives columns of space to arguments designed to induce its readers to buy from local merchants. It is sound economic sense for the community, for the country, for the state, and for the nation.

Naturally, it is a severe shock to people who have contributed of their hard earned money to build up this sentiment, when they see government officials using government money to foster Swiss industries. Not that the American people have any prejudice whatever against Swiss toys. Far from it. But the loyal American has an intense prejudice in favor of the American article, whether it be a toy or something in the line of daily necessity. And that same loyal American will not stand for insincerity which preaches "America First" and practices "Foreigners First."

Hence the likelihood that the department of commerce will be asked to explain itself.

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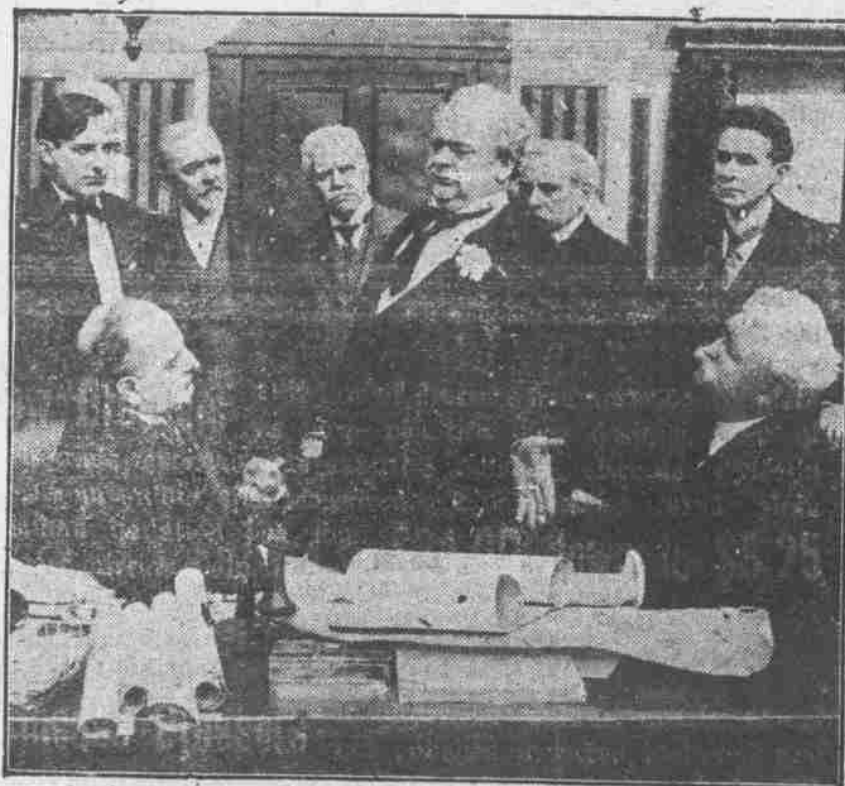
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